



Housetraining Tips

Dogs are creatures of habit. Feeding on a regular schedule will greatly facilitate the housetraining process. While you are housetraining, you should not leave water or food down for your puppy to drink or eat at will. You should offer it according to the sample schedules until he/she is housetrained. I also suggest you feed your pup in the crate to help create a positive association with the crate.

First, choose the spot where you want your puppy to eliminate. You should not release them into the back yard and allow them to pick their own spot; you'll be missing an opportunity to catch them doing something right (reward immediately for eliminating in the spot you prefer).

Plan to have your puppy on a leash when you take them out to eliminate during housetraining. When it's time to take your pup outside to eliminate, put the leash on them. Go to the door that leads to the elimination area and rattle the knob. Say excitedly, "do you want to go potty?!" (or any phrase of your choosing). When you get any response or a particular response you're looking for (in tricks class you'll learn how to have your dog ring a bell to go out), open the door and proceed directly to the spot you previously chose. Always take the pup to this same spot to eliminate. *Do not walk around the yard waiting for them to go.* Stand still in your preferred spot until they relieve themselves. If after five or ten minutes they do not go, take them back into the house and put in the crate; try again after 5 or 10 minutes. Alternatively, you can simply bring them inside and watch them very carefully.

Potty Time? If they show signs of having to go, (sniffing the ground, pacing, panting, whining) immediately take them back to the spot outside. With this method, you obviously have to watch your puppy every second until they are ready to potty (because they will) or you may have a cleaning job ahead of you and be that much further away from a house trained pup.

Oops! If you catch your puppy starting to eliminate in the house say "Oops!" loudly, and in a non-threatening manner to startle—but not scare—to stop the process; immediately take them to the elimination area, picking up and carrying them outside directly to their spot. Anytime your pup eliminates in the house, clean the spot as soon as you can with an enzyme cleaner. I currently use Nature's Miracle, though there are several other enzyme alternatives on the market now. (Note: if you consistently scare your puppy when they attempt to eliminate it in the house, they will determine that it is not safe to potty in your presence. This creates an even bigger problem, as they will try to only eliminate when you are not around.)

Going Potty, Yay! When your pup starts to relieve themselves, you may wish to use a phrase such as "hurry up," or "go potty, but do so in a very neutral quiet voice, so as not to distract them from finishing the job ." This way your dog will learn to associate the phrase with relieving themselves, and you can cue them to go at times convenient for you in the future. As soon as they finish, treat and give plenty of gentle, enthusiastic praise. It's a major success when they go where you want them to!



Housetraining Tips

Play Time: If this will be one of the exercise periods also, you should bring them back inside, stand at the door again, and then ask her if they want to “go play?!” Now you can go outside and take them for a walk, play or interact with them another way. (Retrieving games such as with a Frisbee or Chuckit are great exercises that don’t wear you out! Dogs need exercise. It’s one of the best behavior tools you have because a tired dog is a well-behaved dog.) This part of the process teaches your pup that “go outside,” and eventually whatever signal they use to tell you that they need to go, will only work for having to eliminate, and not for when they want to go play. If they “ask” to go outside and then doesn’t eliminate or tries to play, you will simply take them back inside and put in their crate (without a fuss) for 5-10 minutes. Otherwise, you’ll find yourself hopping up from your comfortable chair every 10 minutes to take them out to sniff or chase something.

In addition ALWAYS take your pup outside to eliminate within 5-10 minutes after eating, drinking, playing, sleeping or waking up. Pick up your pup’s water after 7 or 8 p.m. so they don’t have to go as often in the middle of the night. The first week and sometimes into the 2nd week, your pup will have to eliminate in the middle of the night anyway. This is one reason why you should consider keeping the crate in your bedroom—so you can hear them telling you when they need to go (and to keep them company so they will have much less anxiety.) Put them directly back into the crate after they eliminate. *During night time potty trips, no water, no cuddling and no playtime. *If you do these things after you take them out, they’ll get in the habit of waking you up to play at times you’d much rather be sleeping!**

Supervision: Here is the most important tip you will ever hear for housetraining (and destructive chewing): **Do not let your puppy roam freely throughout the house until they have earned the right to.** They should be on a leash that is tied to your belt-loop, ankle or a table/chair that you’re sitting in, or in the crate if you are unable to constantly watch them. You can also set up a small x-pen somewhere close to where you will be, and give them puzzles, Kong toys or Nylabones to keep them busy. *You can almost guarantee that if they go out of your sight they WILL always get into trouble.*

Housetraining side note: Naming the elimination process comes in pretty handy at times. If you ever need your pup to go potty on a surface they are not used to when traveling, dirt, sand, rocks, Just say, optimistically, “Go potty!” They may just look at you as if to say, “are you kidding me?” They will eventually get the message; however, please be a responsible pet owner and don’t forget to scoop your poop! We keep ziplock bags available in the car for such occasions to contain the smelly poop until we get to the garbage.

*Sample Feeding/Elimination Schedule 1 (**Monks of New Skete #)*

Sleep, Potty, Eat, REPEAT

6:30 a.m. Rise & immediately carry your puppy from their kennel to the designated potty spot.



Housetraining Tips

7:00 a.m. Feed puppy and offer a drink of water
Take back out to the designated spot
Play briefly with pup
Return the puppy to her crate or tether with a leash.

Take outside to potty every hour while they are awake and ALWAYS immediately after a nap.

12 noon 1:00 p.m.– offer water
Play with puppy
Puppy returns to crate for a nap time.

5:00 p.m. Feed your puppy and offer water.
Play or walk with your puppy.
Allow your puppy to play in the kitchen while you prepare dinner

7:00 p.m. Offer water

10:00 p.m. Before bed observe that your puppy eliminates before putting them in the crate or on their bed for the night.

Puppy sleeps in the crate or on a tether right next to you in your bedroom

Sample Alternative Schedule 2

For those who work away from their homes and cannot come home in the mid-morning or mid-afternoon may require a different type of schedule. At a minimum, your puppy should be able to go outside to eliminate:

1. twice in the morning before leaving,
2. "lunchtime" or the middle of her day,
3. late afternoon/early evening,
4. multiple times in the evening, and
5. right before bedtime.

Removing the mid-morning or mid-afternoon visits cause most puppies to have occasional accidents in their crates until their bladders get stronger (this prolongs the housetraining period, so it's best if they can't mess up their crate). You may wish to find an area in your home that can be gated to restrict your puppy or where you can erect a play pen (available in many on-line sites and pet stores). Put the puppy's crate in this area and tie the door open (you don't want anything to happen that would scare your puppy and keep her from using her crate in the future.) Put a few newspapers, potty pad or litter box near an outside door, if possible. Don't paper the whole area, though, because you want them to go to the same spot each time when they have to eliminate. Consider asking a local dog daycare, pet sitter or even a neighbor to help with your puppy's schedule. The fewer times they are allowed to eliminate in inappropriate areas, the faster they will be housetrained.



Housetraining Tips

If your puppy continues to eliminate in unacceptable places in your home, consult your veterinarian to make certain that the problem isn't physiological. If it isn't, you may need to take a closer look at how you administer your house training schedule. As with any training or behavior problem, feel free to also call your training professional or Breeder for help.

Citation

Monks of New Skete. *The Monks of New Skete, The Art of Raising a Puppy*. Little, Brown and Company, copyright 1991.

Always take your puppy out for potty time after the following events:

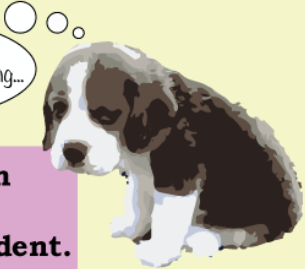
 **Right after a meal.**

 **Immediately after sleeping.**

 **After a playtime session.**

Don't forget to praise him for pottying outside!

© www.dog-training-excellence.com


Why are you upset?
I don't know what I did wrong...

Never punish your puppy for a potty accident.

 If you didn't see it happen, it is **too late** to punish.

 If you see it happening, calmly but firmly say "HaHA!" and immediately take your pooch outside to finish his business.

© www.dog-training-excellence.com